Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
3/12/77

Mr. George Herman
CBS News
2020 M St., NW
Wash., D.C. 20036

Dear George,

Tonight's CBS TV news had a hot item on the House assassinations committee's King "investigation."

It was hot now as news but as on the hand. CBD got burned.

That story was leaked to it, if not directly then indirectly. The line use, that a committee source was aghast so so accurate an account of their report was available.

They must think CBS reporters can't read. That and more are in Miami Magazine for October.

Here is the rest of it, so your people can know how they have been had, the one thing this committee has done successfully to date.

In my book on the King assassination, out 2/71, I have more details on what I had in Oswald in New Orleans (1967) on one Joseph Adams Milteer, a racist extremist. He was in on a threat against JFK and King both, that far back. It was taped by the Miami police by accident. It had an informer named Willie Somersett, not the most upright of citizens, who agreed to have his apartment bugged for an entirely different reason-rumors of an effort to start a race riot. I print the transcript of the tape in Frame-Up. So, naturally, they leaked that as their greatest original accomplishment as a committee to the Jack Anderson column. Anderson went for it, too. In fact, he had not been interested in the one CNS used and then about a week ago got interested.

One of those who followed up on what I published, the only one to add to any of it, is a fine young Miami reporter Dan Christensen. He was here about a month or so ago. While he was here he went to the committee to apply for a job to carry that part of his work (in it I have no faith but I do in Dan) and gave them what he had. The committee has Gaeton Fonzi in Miami, I understand, working on this and on the story of Sylvia Odio. It, too, will be a committee hot exclusive. What else when I published it in 1965.

Either the leaker or your reporter were better, though, because the CBS account was faithful to Dan's story. This is not generally true of all the many leaks of nothing new. Generally there is improvisation, always unfactual. The committee was approved in fact, with a b.s. interpretation of a fine job by another friend, Les Payne of Newsday. I gave Les some leads, he followed and published them, I later put them in a court record and lo! more than a half year later they are totally corrupted to excite the Congress into voting a committee. Lane did the original stealing and the original bullshitting. If Fauntroy was faithful to Lane he was unfaithful enough to reality. Lane has parlayed this into what the Chicago Kup column reported is a six-figure deal.

In all of this insane business in which everyone -almost-has besmirched himself only one reporter has been careful enough to check any fact or representation of it with me. George Lardner. Time was most reporters cared about accuracy and about being used.

Now on the Somersett story, it is true he reported his story to the police. But it is also true that there is no confirmation of it. As I remember it he attributed the conversation to a maritime union. They are not quite Teamsters in the vinyards. They are not the unions involved in sanitation, if there was anything at all to his tale. I know enough about him not to take his word. He and Milteer are both dead. Not killed.

I'd much appreciate a transcript of that part of the newscast for my records. I am keeping a file on this committee. Thanks and best regards,